

MAGINEERING CROSSING THE ATLANTIC



Last December, we had a day where we were testing the steam trains. We'd alerted everyone to the fact that we were going to take the trains out and away we so through the Pirates of the Caribbean tunnel to the Fantasyland Station. There we come to a grinding halt, because there's a contractor nouring colored concrete.

positioned over the train tracks. He's just finishing up the train station platform. So we have a little conversation, and

it's decided that they'll move their rig. Before they can do that. however, they have to clean out the concrete hose. To do this you pump a foam ball through the hose, and it

clears out the concrete. They're in the process of doing this, and all of a sudden, there's a huge explosion when the foam ball emerges. Six ours standing near the freshly poured platform topple backwards into it. The hose is whirling wildly overhead, like a sprinkler gone wacky, spraying the trains, the station, and all twenty or so people in the vicinity with fresh, wet, sticky colored concrete.

You can't wash concrete out of a beard or mustache - y o u

have to cut it out." And more:

Twasin the roundhouse with Bob Harper, our railroad guru from Walt Disney World. In walk lim Cora and Dick Nunis. They talk with Bob about the coming October 12 press event, because they want to run the trains during the event. 'Well, Bob, there's no question about who's going to drive the train,' says Dick. 'but who's going to be your fireman? At which point, I vell out, Till do it.' 'Not with that beard,' says Dick. 'Not a problem, I'll shave it off,' I say. Dick says, 'You're on. lust send me the before and after photos.' The evening of October 11. I shave. The next morning, my wife rolls over in bed, opens her eyes, and screams-she didn't know who was in bed with her. I patch that up, get into full costume and go drive the trains with Bob. I have to tell you, it was the happiest

day of my life. My beard is now part of my mantal contract, And Dick's still waiting for those photos."

Aric Adolph

Production Management "In support of the effort to 'light up' Euro Disneyland, about 5,008 light fixtures had to be designed, procured and shipped to France. By January '92, the team had successfully completed and shipped 4,989 fixtures-or so we thought. In late January, we received the painful 'breaking' news that 510 lighting poles we had sent to France were cracking and if we couldn't send replacements within 30 days, we risked delaying the Park opening. The then disbanding themed lighting team regrouped to expedite a 'crash pole recovery

program' and, within 28 business

days, shipped all 510 replacement

poles to France-on schedule!"

Stan Abrahamsan Animotion Development

The sword-fighting pirates was the most complex sequence we've ever tried to program. These two guys nearly destroyed each other as they were being programmed. They'd tangle up their swords nunch each other even tear the hair off of each other. We replaced clevies (U-shaped shackles). strengthened the arms, changed the swords. Doug Griffith and Eric Swapp did an incredible programming job, but not without a battlea literal battle!"

HE RENCHES



Beth Ann Brody Show Set Design

For the jewel scene in Pirates of the Caribbean, we used over 30,000 eold coins to dress the area. There I was, happily pasting coins down with silicone gel, when all of a sudden I leaned back and sat in a pool of the stuff-all over a new pair of pants and a sweater. It doesn't come out, let me tell you. The only way to get out of the scene was to jump off the boat to get to the other side, and many times we missed the boat and fell into the water. You think silicone gel is bad. try being wet when it's 20 degrees outside! I was assisted in this noble endeavor by a great crew of French and British nineteen or twentyyear-olds, all extremely talented."

Geoff Puckett Special Effects

"The Fantasyland castle team was acting against time to get the castle finished for the October 12 press event. We'd had numerous meetings to discuss installing the three 'polage' windows, the stained glass windows with special polarized images and colors. The tallest tower window, "C-1," was scheduled to be littled into place two days before the big celebra-

tion.

At installation, during the tenminute lowering of the crane's platform. Chalmer Day, the castle problem swapping the T-1 window with a regular stained glass window, so the polage would be positioned facing Fantasyland instead of Main Street. Chalmer said Tony Baxter thought it would make more sense. Tony was right-it did-but there went all those months of planning, the trip to the production vendor in Milan, Italy, and countless discussions with the project engineer, not to mention the steel modifications to allow access for equipment installation that would now be necessary. The French have a way, when they don't want to do something, of saying 'it's imposseeble," and at this point I said 'it's impos-seeble.

coordinator, asked me if I had a

The next thing I knew, two guys were hacksawing the custom-built illuminator frame to make it fit into the newly designated window. An hour later the pieces were in the tower and two days later the reversed polage was impressing everyone from its highly visible position above Fantasyland. So much for meetings and paperwork!



Katie Olsan Show Design

In January, the paint would literally freeze on the brush before you could get it on the walls. We had to tent the buildings on Main Street and use salamander heaters (gas-burning cooking overs) to set the temperature un to

paint. Sometimes I had to tell the guys to stop painting because it was too cold, and there'd be a big cheer! The funniest sight was walking down Main Street at tea time and seeing everyone roasting weenies and heating food up on the salamander heaters because they had big flames."

Keith Goodrich Show Production

"I lived in Esbly just minutes from the site, and in the spring and summer, I rode my bicycle through the French countrycide to the serve and

through the French countryside to the site and back. There is this beautiful town on the way called Coupviray with

a scenic canal off the Marne River.

Marne
River.
Riding
through the site, the workers were

unaccustomed to seeing someone arrive to work on a bike. I got the strangest looks! Of course, I rode with a helmet and a walkman *

Don Winten Show Production Design

The funniest moment I remember was when we almost had an international incident because one nationality was working on the floor above another nationality. Its customary in Europe for men to urinate in the open, and the men working on the lower floor walked off the job because they were getting wet A major negotiation took place to get the men book to work. Smilar bazure peace make in offers wet or sall the time?



Eddie Sotto Concept Design

borking doe of Market Street that plays all right long over when the Park is closed. As we all know, EDL Security Hosts walk the Park with their security does with their security does what the Park with their security does late at night. One night, as one of the guards passed Warket Street, he heard the howl of a dog emanating from the second story of one of the beloved security does was accidentally trapped a upstairs.

as accidentally upstairs, the guard summoned

help until there was a swam of fellow officers combing the upstairs catwalks and rafters of the empty show building. The frantic guards searched in vain until they finally found the 'dog' peering out of an upstairs window—disquised as an audio cable and a loudspeaker!"

Mork Stutz Show Production Design

While most of the CIRCLE-VISION® 360 set was built in the States, we had the new EDL Central Shops design a steel lean rail for us in Europe. Because the rail had to on all the way around the set, we specified that it be made in sections, but our instructions suffered in the translation and we ended up with a solid steel railing 30 to 40 feet across. Nobody knew how to move it. It took about 20 Irish workers just to pick the thing up and hoist it onto an enormousflatbedtruck. And we blocked traffic for an hour-it was an epic "

Terry Villosenor

Show Systems Coordination *A representative from the French Bureau Ventas came to the Park to witness a safety test on a prototype canoe. We piled 20 Operations kids into the canoe and had them packle about, rock the boat and stand up. We even had them dump it over, then flip it right-side-up and sit inside, waist-deep in water. Convinced this thing was perfectly safe, the guy motioned the canoe back to the dock. Everyone was happy, shaking hands and as we ushered him out, one of the guys slipped and fell in what had just been determined a safe canoe."

Ken Lennon Show Lighting

"One Monday morning at 6 a.m., I noticed I was low on gas and pulled off the highway to find a gas station. I was still asleep, but it's no excuse-I don't speak French. I put what I thought was gas in the carfrom a dispenser marked GASOLE. The car died about 1000 yards out of the station. I hike back to the station, call EuropCar, and at that time in the morning, no one speaks English. Finally, a woman who speaks limited English tells me I've put diesel instead of regular gas in the car. There's a smile in her voiceshe's amused. She tells me she's sending a tow truck. It's zero degrees outside. I wait. At 7:30, the tow truck pulls up, and I climb in. The driver speaks no English. We get to my car, and he tries to start it. He points to the gas level-be knows the car's full. He's confounded I start the car, and snowy white snoke billows out of the tailpipe. There's a big smile on the guy's face. All he says is 'Euro Disney?' I figure he's seen this little problem several times in the past few years.'

Yvette Robledo

Slow Systems coordandine

"In Fartasy aland, we warred to do each attraction in its language of origin and decided to do Stow Wilders Dottch. When the finished main marquee arrived in Europe, first Van Dijk (who is Duich) took a 800 kst 81, went bright red in the face and very carefully explained that the literal translation of this sign was a derogatory Dutch term for a part of the female anatomy and could not be used."

Jenno Frere Show Design

"A crane was once brought in to help on Adventure Isle, but it sank midwheel into the mud. A



second crane tried to rescue the first, but it toppled over sideways and sank, too. Then a third crane tried to pull the first two out and # got stuck. It was amazing—drice enormous crashed cranes, just trying to do one lattle thing on the island, stranded—for days—until someone was finally able to dig them out."





Richard Brown Show Production Design

"Last December, Dick Fleshman (Ride Systems) asked me if I would dive under the Ruers of the Far West with him to see why the riverbeat was still attached to one of its four mooring pylons. Dick and I are both licensed divers. and you always dive in pairs, so we went out and bought dry suits, put them on over our clothes and waded into the river. The only problem was that it was around 20 degrees outside, with a water temperature of 34 degrees. Luckily, the water was only chest deep, but it was covered with an inch of ice, so every few feet we had to stop, break the sheets

with our elbows and keep going. At first 4 we snorkeled, but there wasn't any visibility, so we

decided we'd better dive. We went into Phantom Manor to warm up, then put on our tanks to dive. We had to swim in from the stern down an 18-inch tunnel of swirling silt. Visibility was less than arm's length with flashlights. It was cold, forbidding. My face became numb and the cold crept into my suit. I could see the beam of Dick's light for awhile, then nothing. I lay under the boat listening to my bubbles. wondering what to do, and thinking how unfun this was. Finally, after what seemed forever, I felt a sharp pounding on my shoulder. Dick had gone out another way and came around for me. After

surfacing, the first thing he said

was, I got it figured out, so let's get out of the water.' All that was needed was to raise the water level of the river another foot. I was glad

Steve Blum Ride Systems Engineering Project management re-

lieved a lot of tension with practical jokes. I still don't think Brad Borgman knows Val Usle was the one who rigged the battery-powered water pistol to empty itself on Brad when he sat down in his chair. The cruel thing about it is that not only did Val get Brad with the gun, he convinced him that Mike Strong was the guy who had done it and stayed up with Brad until the wee hours of the morning to help him play the joke on Mike.



John Hogg Show Set Design

1 was walking through Discoveryland early one morning. It was freezing and everyone was minding their own business. All of a sudden, my left foot sticks in something. I look down, and I'm up to my ankles in freshly poured concrete. No markers, no signs, no workers, no warning, I look up, and there's the OPM (Tony Catton) scowling at me all the way across Discoveryland. To cover my embarrassment I began velling Where the hell are the barricades? Twenty minutes later. Mark Stutz does the same thing. Job security for the pavers?" (Tony Catton says, "8#\$%A&**@. John and Mark!")

Ride Systems

"The EDL Star Tours motion system test-and-adjust period was six weeks. It was a site regulation to wear steel-toed boots and I chose the smallest size boot available. I wore those things every day, back and forth across the muddy trail to Star Tours. After the first few days, my left foot really burt. Four weeks later I went to the doctor, who diagnosed gout, and told me if my foot continued to hurt, to get an x-ray if it wasn't better in a

week, Finally, I got an x-ray (my husband insisted). and voila/ My foot was broken. The cast took two days to dry! Thad to finish up the last eight hours of test and adjust by phone with a stand-in witnessing the



Francine Apparel Interiors

T worked with Theme Lighting at EDLI, and part of my job included visits to vendors to monitor the production of lighting fixtures for the park. Clive Dinmore (also of Theme Lighting) and I made a trip to Marrakesh, Morocco in July of '91, It was 126 degrees (seriously), and Clive and I (unwisely) drank orange tuice in the bazaar on our first day. We both became very ill-the Moroccans called it Khadafi's revenge. We were exhausted. Imagine how we felt when we heard that the purchasing agent (with a contracting firm) who had accompanied us on this business trip had been at the hotel all day, shooping, suntanning, having a massage, you name it."

